

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANJUL 0586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT GA

SUBJ: HIGH LEVEL CHANGES IN CIVIL SERVICE

REF: BANJUL 0060

1. LONG DISCUSSED RESHUFFLE OF TOP LEVEL CIVIL SERVANTS, PROMPTED BY AUGUST RETIREMENT OF SECRETARY GENERAL CHRISTENSEN, IS NOW OFFICIAL AND PERSONNEL INVOLVED ARE BEGINNING TO ASSUME NEW POSITIONS. CHANGEOVER IS TO BE COMPLETED BY EARLY MAY.

2. KEY CHANGE IS DESIGNATION OF PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, FRANCIS M'BOGE AS REPLACEMENT FOR CHRISTENSEN. BORN IN 1935, M'BOGE HAS BEEN ELEVATED OVER SEVERAL MORE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS, INCLUDING DEP. SEC. GEN. M. M&. QOSSEH WHO IS 6 OLDER THAN M'BOGE AND UNDER WHOM M'BOGE MNCE SERVED. CHRISTENSEN TOLD CHARGE (DESPITE CONTRADICTORY DISCLAIMER REFTEL) THAT M'BOGE HAS FULL CONFIDENCE PRESIDENT JAWARA. M'BOGE WORKED AS CHRISTENSEN'S ASSISTANT IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE 1967-70, THUS HE IS FAMILIAR WITH WORK AT THAT LEVEL. FIRST APPOINTED TO CIVIL SERVICE IN 1963, M'BOGE HAS BEEN NOTABLY EFFECTIVE AG PERM SEC FOR PAST 8 YEARS. A PRACTISING CATHOLIC, M'BOGE CONTINUES CHRISTIAN OCCUPANCY OF

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HIGHEST CAREER POSITION IN GOTG, FACTOR WHICH RANKLES MANY MUSLIMS. SOSSEH IS TO REMAIN AS DEPUTY SEC. GEN.

3. OTHER CHANGES INCLUDE MOVEMENT OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM PERM SEC ALIEU JAGNE TO AGRICULTURE. EDUCATION PERM SEC MALCOLM CLARKE REPLACES JAGNE AT INFORMATION, AND HIS POSITION WILL BE ASSUMED BY MELVILLE AUBER, PRESENTLY DEPUTY PERM SEC IN FINANCE.

M. M. WADDA, FORMERLY DEPUTY PERM SEC IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAS ALREADY BECOME PERM SEC IN WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS. HIS PREDECESSOR, SAIHOU SISOHORE NOW BECOMES PERM SEC LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LANDS. FORMER PERM SEC LOCAL GOVERNMENT SALIFOU CHAM NOW RESUMES POSITION HE OCCUPIED SOME YEARS AGO AS ESTABLISHMENT SECRETARY (CHIEF PERSONNEL OFFICER FOR CIVIL SERVICE). INCUMBENT ESTABLISHMENT SECRETARY, FRED GRANTE, IS SHORTLY TO ASSUME AN EXTERNAL CONSULTANCY UNDER COMMONWEALTH AUSPICES.

4. MOVEMENT AMONG PERMANENT SECRETARIES WOULD HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS IN SEVERAL KEY MINISTRIES. WHILE M'BOGE'S SHOES AT AGRICULTURE WILL BE HARD TO FILL, JAGNE IMPRESSES US AS ONE OF ABLEST YOUNGER OFFICIALS. AUBER (1976 IV GRANTEE) TAKES OVER ONE OF MOST FRACTIOUS MINISTRIES AT TIME OF GREAT INTERNAL TURBULENCE, IN WAKE OF FORCED EARLY RETIREMENT OF CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER. HE APPEARS ABLE, DECISIVE, AND ENERGETIC, IN MARKED CONTRAST TO HIS PLEASANT BUT LARGELY INEFFECTUAL PREDECESSOR, CLARKE. SISOHORE RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY HAS BEEN BLAMED FOR GROSS INEFFICIENCIES AT PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, WITH SOME RUMORS OF CORRUPTION SURROUNDING HIS NAME. WADDA IS STOLID, RATHER COLD BUREAUCRAT, WHO MIGHT PROVE TO BE MORE EFFICIENT ORGANIZER AND LESS SUSCEPTABLE TO TEMPTATIONS WHICH ALWAYS ACCRUE AT PWD.

5. RETIREMENT OF CHRISTENSEN, WHO HEADS CIVIL SERVICE AND IS PRESIDENT JAWARA'S CLOSEST ADVISOR ON ALL MATTERS OF STATE, WILL HAVE NORMOUS IMPACT ON CONDUCT OF GOTG BUSINESS. HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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LIVELY INTELLECT, PRODIGIOUS MEMORY, AND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TO SIR DAWDA, HAVE MADE HIM UNIQUE, POWERFUL FIGURE IN HIGHEST COUNCILS. M'BOGE WILL INHERIT JOB, BUT WILL HAVE TO EARN POSITION. HE IS YOUNG, OXFORD EDUCATED, QUICK THINKING, AND ENERGETIC. M'BOGE ALSO HAS PLEASANT PERSONALITY AND RELATES EASILY TO OTHERS, ESPECIALLY FOREIGNERS. HIS POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND GENERAL IDEOLOGICAL OUTLOOK WOULD COMPARE WITH CHRISTENSEN'S, I.E. ESSENTIALLY PRO-WESTERN AND WELL DESPOSED TOWARD US. BUT, M'BOGE WILL NEED TIME AND EXPERIENCE ON JOB TO EVEN APPROACH STATURE OF PREDECESSOR. INTERIM MONTHS WILL SEE MUCH JOCKYING FOR POWER AMONG PERM SECS, AT SOME COST TO OVER-ALL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY.

6. CHRISTENSEN SAYS HE PLANS TO ENTER BUSINESS AND "CULTIVATE HIS GARDEN" UPON RETIREMENT, BUT HE ALSO EXPECTS TO PLAY SENIOR ADVISORY ROLE. WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE HIM EVENTUALLY POSTED OVERSEAS, MOST LIKELY AS HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LONDON, VICE AGING (OVER 70) B. O. SEMEGA-JANNEH.
WYGANT

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